

S/N 10/825,407
In response to Office Action of April 7, 2006

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on April 7, 2006. Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify elements recited in the claim and is supported by the specification on page 10, lines 6-16. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 10 has been amended to further clarify elements recited in the claim and is supported by the specification on page 11, lines 2-4. As a result, no new material has been added. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 9-11 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Balsamo, et al. (US Publication No. 2003/0031222). Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious on consideration of Balsamo. Claims 1-6 and 9-11 remain pending.

102(b) Rejection:

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 9-11 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Balsamo. This rejection is traversed. Claim 1 is directed to a semiconductor laser device comprising, among other features, a stripe structure whose width at the front end face is set so as to satisfy the relationship of: $(\text{a vertical far-field of view angle}) / (\text{a horizontal far-field of view angle}) \leq 3$. Keeping the stripe width at the front end face within these constraints enhances the efficiency in which the device captures light at the time of writing to an optical disc. These constraints also enhance the kink level during a continuous oscillation operation and stabilize laser oscillation in the fundamental transverse mode up to the time of the high optical output operation.

In contrast, Balsamo discusses setting the width of the stripe at the front end face ("W3") of a resonator "100" proportional to a mode field diameter, between the range of 5.0 and 20.0 μm (paragraphs [0067] to [0068]). Nowhere does Balsamo disclose setting the width of the stripe at the front end face based on the relationship: $(\text{a vertical far-field of view angle}) / (\text{a horizontal far-field of view angle}) \leq 3$. Nor does Balsamo attempt to solve all the problems this relationship provides, namely for enhancing the efficiency in which the device captures light at the time of writing to an optical disc, enhancing the

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kink level of the semiconductor laser device and stabilizing laser oscillation in the fundamental transverse mode up to the time of the high optical output operation.

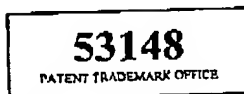
For at least these reasons, claim 1 is not anticipated and is allowable. Claims 3, 5-6 and 9-11 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants do not concede the relevance of Balsamo to the features of claims 3, 5-6 and 9-11.

103(a) Rejection:

The Examiner rejected claims 2 and 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious on consideration of Balsamo. Claims 2 and 4 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants do not concede the relevance of Balsamo to the features of claims 2 and 4.

Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully asserts claims 1-6 and 9-11 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 7 and 8 should be reinstated for allowance with the remaining claims. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.



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Respectfully submitted,

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